

Wyoming Office of the Attorney General Division of Victim Services

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OCTOBER LAUNCHES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

CHEYENNE, WY- Governor Dave Freudenthal will be signing the proclamation declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) Friday, September 30th at 3:30 pm at the Capitol Building. The purpose of DVAM is to increase the public's understanding about domestic violence in our society. Events in communities and regions across the fifty states will culminate in a powerful statement celebrating the strength of battered women and their children.

That is why The Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, in partnership with Wyoming Office of the Attorney General, Division of Victim Services, is launching the public awareness campaign: "I would call to keep you safe" "Believe it" This campaign is to inform victims of domestic violence they are not alone and there are resources available to help them.

Governor Dave Freudenthal, Attorney General Pat Crank & Anna Crank and Bishop David Ricken have all participated in this years campaign. Their photos with the caption "I would call to keep you safe" will be distributed through the state in newspapers, billboards and posters throughout the year.

Domestic violence is a serious crime that takes many forms and affects thousands of men, women and children. It disrupts communities, destroys relationships and families, and costs millions of dollars annually.

The struggle to end domestic violence is far from over. Women are about six times more likely than men to experience violence committed by offenders with whom they had an intimate relationship. And, nearly 30 percent of all female homicide victims were known to have been killed by husbands, former husbands or boyfriends.

In recent years, women have experienced about 900,000 violent offenses at the hands of an intimate partner. In addition, women, ages 16 to 24, experience the highest per capita rates of intimate violence.

The most recent statistics also indicate that half of all female victims of intimate partner violence reported a

physical injury. And, nearly half of all female victims of intimate partner violence are in households with children under the age of 12.

These startling statistics clearly show the continued need for increased prevention and public awareness campaigns.

For more information on domestic violence contact the Wyoming Division of Victim Services at 1-888-996-8816 or the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault at 1-800-990-3877.